GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6776
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
RADIATION BOMBS
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is going ahead with the plan to build radiation bombs for itself and possibly for others;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to meet the challenge posed by Pakistan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a)&(b) Government are aware of media reports, following the seizure of a consignment of radio-active material intended for Pakistan, that Pakistan could be pursuing a programme to build `radiation bombs`. This consignment reportedly originated in Kazakhstan and was confiscated by the Customs authorities of Uzbekistan.

(c) India is engaged in cooperative efforts, including in the context of IAEA, to combat illicit trafficking of nuclear materials. Government also remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India`s security and national interest in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.